

Table 6: Interagency Data Needs

List:	Public school districts throughout the State maintain immunization histories for all enrolled students (either in paper or electronic format). These data are needed in electronic format to complete the Annual Survey of Immunization Compliance, required by Texas Education Code §38.002, and to populate the statewide immunization registry, ImmTrac, authorized by Health and Safety Code §161.007.
Obstacles:	Technical, economic, and political obstacles currently prevent the efficient sharing of these data. Approximately 40% of school districts do not maintain computerized immunization records. Of those that do, the number of software packages in use (and data formats) prevents use of these data by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) for the Annual Survey of Immunization Compliance and for ImmTrac. Funds are needed to computerize records in districts which now maintain records manually, to develop a software standard that would allow TDH to use the data for these purposes, and to establish capacity at TDH to store and analyze data for the annual survey. Recent legislation requires that parental consent be obtained before an immunization record can be stored in ImmTrac. A mechanism for obtaining this consent must be established. Although existing legislation permits the release of these data to TDH for survey purposes, specific consent for use of the data for this purpose would also be requested.
Needed Assistance:	Cooperation and assistance is needed from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in developing an export standard for use by districts to transfer these data. Districts currently submit data electronically twice a year as part of the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). The Texas Department of Health does not wish to add immunization data to the PEIMS data standard, but would, however, like to access this existing mechanism for collecting and aggregating the data from individual districts.

